



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement Grants (FASE)



FOOD PRODUCTION  
AND SUSTAINABILITY

BIOENERGY, CLIMATE,  
AND ENVIRONMENT

YOUTH, FAMILY,  
AND COMMUNITY

FOOD SAFETY  
AND NUTRITION

INTERNATIONAL  
PROGRAMS

# USDA NIFA

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# NIFA EPSCoR Committee With You Today

- **Nancy Cavallaro**, National Program Leader (Soil Water and Climate Change), Committee Co-Chair, Email: ncavallaro @nifa.usda.gov
- **Sharon Lumpkin**, Program Analyst and Committee Co-Chair, Email: slumpkin@nifa.usda.gov
- **Liang-Shiou Lin**, National Program Leader (Plant Biology), Email: LLIN@nifa.usda.gov
- **Peter Johnson**, National Program Leader (Animal Health & Animal Well-Being), Email: PJohnson@nifa.usda.gov



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

Our  
focus  
today



# Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement Grants (FASE)

([http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri\\_fase\\_epscor\\_program.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri_fase_epscor_program.html))

## Special Opportunities for:

- USDA Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (**EPSCoR**) states & entities
- **Small and mid-sized academic institutions** with limited institutional success
- **Minority-serving institutions**
- **New Investigators**



# FASE (Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement) Grants

## Goals:

- Strengthen science capabilities in research, education, &/or extension programs
- Help institutions develop competitive projects
- Attract new scientists into careers in high-priority areas of national need





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Food and Agriculture Science Enhancement Grants (FASE)

Where are they offered?

- Only in the Agriculture & Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Program  
([http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri\\_synopsis.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/afri/afri_synopsis.html))
- AFRI is USDA's largest competitive grants program

# Agriculture & Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Project Types

## Project Types\*\*\*:

- Research
  - Education
  - Extension
- } single function
- Integrated — multi-function

\*\*\*AFRI programs solicit one or more of these PROJECT types; consult the individual request for applications (RFA's).

# AFRI Grant Types

## Grant Types\*\*\*:

1. Standard grants
2. Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAPs)
3. Conference grants
4. Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) grants

\*\*\*AFRI programs solicit one or more of these GRANT types; consult the individual request for applications (RFA's).

# FASE Grant Types

- **Pre-doctoral Fellowship Grants**
  - **Post-doctoral Fellowship Grants**
- } 2.5% of AFRI budget set-aside
- 
- **New Investigator (NI) Grants**  
 No set-aside, but mechanism to support NIs below the program funding cut-off...
- 
- **Strengthening Grants** (7.5% of AFRI budget set-aside):
  - ✓ **Seed Grants**
  - ✓ **Sabbatical Grants**
  - ✓ **Equipment Grants**
  - ✓ **Strengthening Standard Grants**  
 (including CAP & conference grants)



# Fellowship Grants Program

- Projects must address one of the general topic areas in AFRI
- **Predoctoral Fellowships** (must have passed to candidacy by application deadline)
  - Technical and functional competence for predoctoral students
  - \$79,000 total (tuition, fees, supplies, travel, etc.)
- **Postdoctoral Fellowships** (must have completed Ph.D. in time window specified in the RFA)
  - The research independence and teaching credentials of postdoctoral students
  - \$150,000 total (primarily for salary support, expenditures other than salary support may not exceed \$30,000 per year)

# New Investigator Grants

- Less than 5 years of postgraduate, career-track experience
- Has not received competitive Federal research funds beyond pre- or postdoctoral grants or AFRI seed grants
- Research, education, and/or extension
- No specific RFA:
  - Identify AFRI program for your topic & submit to that program by its deadlines
- Proposal written same as non-new investigator except box checked indicating eligibility

## **Strengthening Grants**

**(Seed, Sabbatical, Equipment, Strengthening Standard)**

Eligibility Limited to Degree-granting institutions in:

1. EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) states & entities:
  - States with funding level no higher than the 38th percentile of all states from AFRI during previous 3 years (19 states);
  - EPSCoR states recalculated each year; states can move in & out of the list depending on their success receiving AFRI awards.
2. Small and mid-sized institutions with limited institutional success; and/or
3. Minority-serving with limited institutional success



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

## **FY 2015 USDA EPSCoR States**

**Alabama  
Alaska  
Arizona  
Connecticut  
Idaho  
Kentucky  
Maine  
Mississippi  
Montana**

**Nevada  
New Hampshire  
New Mexico  
North Dakota  
Rhode Island  
South Carolina  
South Dakota  
Utah  
Vermont  
Wyoming**

**Others:  
American Samoa  
District of Columbia  
Guam  
Micronesia  
Northern Mariana Is  
Puerto Rico  
U.S. Virgin Islands**

## Strengthening Grant Eligibility (cont'd)

- Small and Mid-sized institutions:
  - Current total enrollment of 17,500 or less
- Minority-serving:
  - Enrollment of single minority group or combination of minority groups exceeds 50% of total enrollment
- Limited institutional success:
  - Not among most successful universities & colleges receiving Federal funds for science & engineering research & development  
(Table 1 in AFRI RFA)



## **Strengthening Grant Types:**

- **Seed Grants (\$150,000/2 years):**
    - Collect preliminary data for future AFRI funding
    - Single function research, education or extension
  - **Sabbatical Grants:**
    - Up to one year of salary, funds for travel & supplies; mini-sabbaticals also appropriate
  - **Equipment Grants:** 50% of cost or \$50,000 (whichever is less) for one piece of equipment (\$10,000-250,000). Requires Non-federal matching, but waivers (<\$25K) for lowest one third institutions (Table 2 in RFA)
- 
- **7-page limitation (project narrative) for these 3 grant types !!!**
  - **No specific RFA → Identify AFRI program for your topic & submit to that program by its deadline**



# Strengthening Grant Types (cont.)

## Strengthening Standard Grants:

- Proposal same as standard proposal (18 page narrative) except box checked indicating eligibility
- No specific RFA:
  - Identify AFRI program for your topic & submit to that program by its deadlines
  - “Strengthening standard” reviewed with “Standard” proposals in same panel



## Strengthening Standard Grants:

### Two chances to be funded:

1<sup>st</sup>: Competing with all proposals (strengthening + non-strengthening) for program \$\$\$

Strengthening proposals above funding line will receive program dollars, not set-aside

2<sup>nd</sup>: Strengthening proposals below funding cut-off for program \$\$\$ (but that ranked well) are eligible to be considered by program staff to receive part of “7.5% set-aside” funds



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Does any of this sound confusing ???

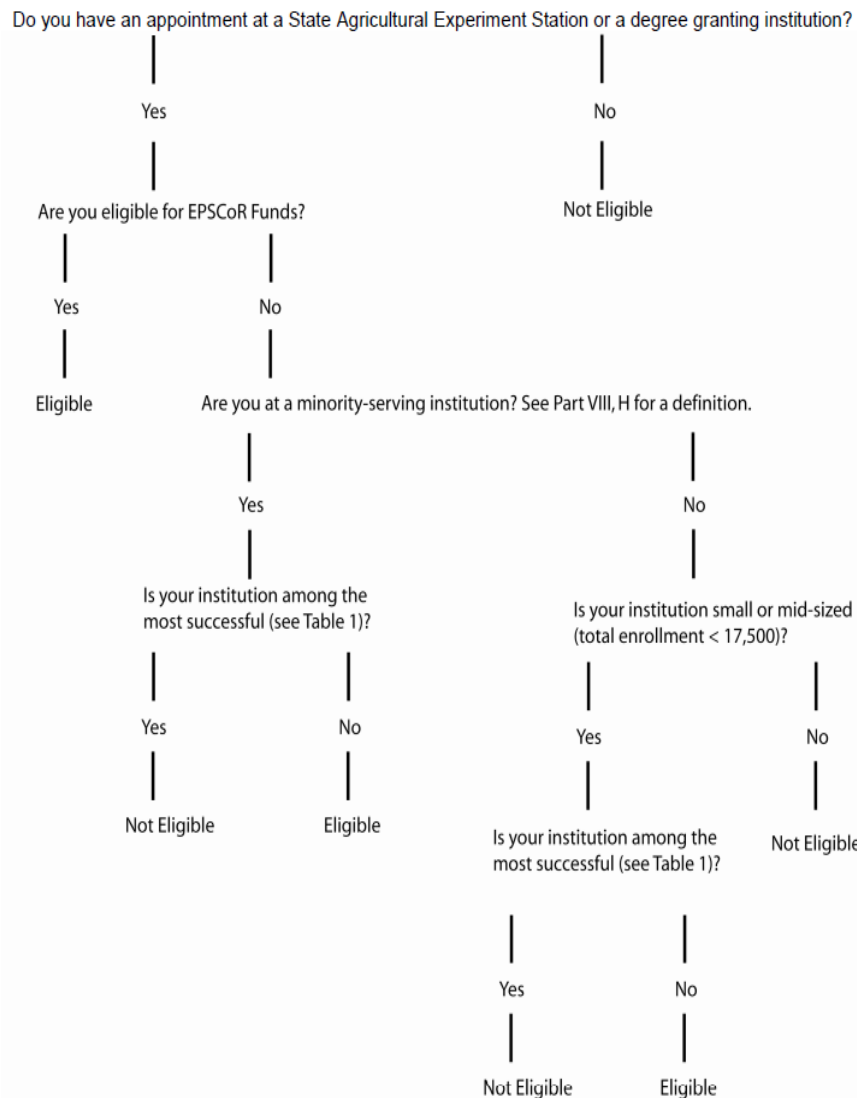
Great News...  
There is a flow chart...



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Helpful  
eligibility  
flow  
chart on  
last page  
of AFRI  
RFAs

FIGURE 1. Flow Chart for Strengthening Grant Eligibility.

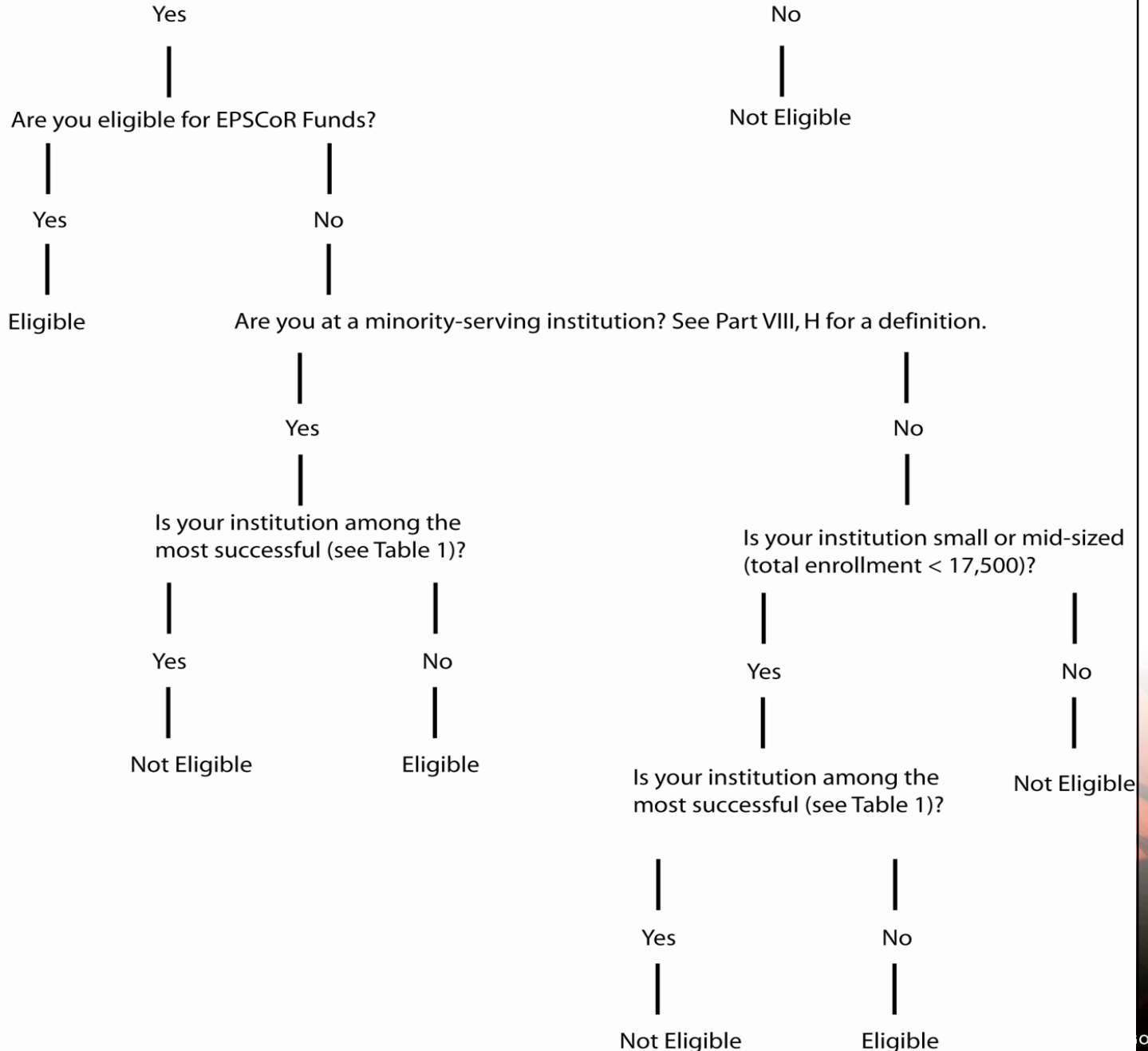






United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Do you  
work at a  
degree-  
granting  
institution  
or State  
Agricultural  
Experiment  
Station?





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

## AFRI FASE Grants

New Investigator  
Grants (no set-aside)

Strengthening Grants (7.5% of  
AFRI funding)

Eligibility:

- **EPSCoR states**
- Minority-serving institutions not among the most successful
- Small or mid-sized institutions not among the most successful

Pre- and Postdoctoral  
Fellowship Grants (2.5% of  
AFRI funding)

- Sabbatical Grants
- Equipment Grants
- Seed Grants
- Strengthening Standard Grants
- Strengthening CAP  
(Coordinated Agricultural  
Project) Grants
- Strengthening Conference  
Grants



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# AFRI Programs (8 Annual RFAs)

## Some details on themes

# 1. AFRI Foundational Program

- Primarily research proposals & more fundamental research topics
- Program Areas aligned with Farm Bill Priorities:
  - **Plant health and production, plant products;**
  - **Animal health and production, animal products;**
  - **Food safety, nutrition, and health;**
  - **Bioenergy, natural resources, environment;**
  - **Agriculture systems and technology; and**
  - **Agriculture economics and rural communities.**
- Priorities: generally very broad; usually don't change markedly from year to year

# New Program Area Initiatives in AFRI Foundational RFA

- **Critical Agricultural Research and Extension (CARE)** – local, regional or national problems; yield solutions quickly; rapidly implemented by producers
- **Exploratory** – new and emerging innovative ideas; application of new knowledge or approaches; tools required for paradigm shift; rapid response to natural disasters
  - Small high-risk, high-reward; proof-of-concept; transformative



# AFRI Challenge Areas

- Mix of grant & project types
- Program Area Priorities target a specific societal challenge
- 6 Challenge Area Program RFAs
  - Childhood Obesity Prevention
  - Climate Variability and Change
  - Food Safety
  - Food Security
  - Sustainable Bioenergy
  - Water for Agriculture





# To not miss release of any NIFA AFRI RFA...

## Helpful guidance:

- <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/notification.html>
- <http://www.grants.gov/search/subscribeAdvanced.do>
- Use the correct CFDA Number:  
→ AFRI= 10.310
- What to expect→ Notification for 8 AFRI RFA's
  - 1 for Fellowships
  - 1 for Foundational
  - 6 for Challenge Areas



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# THANK YOU...

## Questions and Answers





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Childhood Obesity Prevention

- **Societal challenge**: End Child Obesity

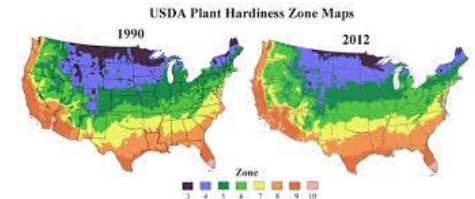






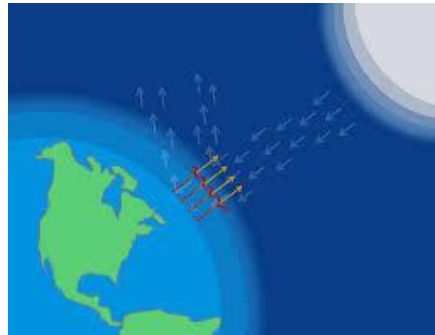
United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture



# Climate Variability and Change

- **Societal Challenge**: Adapt Agroecosystems and Natural Resource Systems to Climate Variability and Change and Implement Mitigation Strategies in those Systems.







United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Food Safety

- **Societal challenge**: Ensure the Availability and Accessibility of a Safe and Nutritious Food Supply while Maintaining American Agriculture Competitiveness





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Food Security



- **Societal Challenge**: Ensure the Availability and Accessibility of a Safe and Nutritious Food Supply while Maintaining American Agriculture Competitiveness





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Sustainable Bioenergy

- **Societal Challenge**: Secure America's Energy Future







United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Water for Agriculture



- **Societal Challenge**: To have sufficient water availability, quantity, and quality to meet U.S. agricultural needs while maintaining or improving the natural, economic, and social environments.

